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Mexico death toll nears 100 as new hurricane hits

ATOYAC DE ALVAREZ, (AFP) - Deaths from floods and landslides battering Mexico neared 100 on Thursday as a fresh hurricane hit the northwest and rescuers faced a risky mission in a village buried in mud.

Hurricane Manuel, the same weather system that pummeled the Pacific coast earlier this week, made landfall on the state of Sinaloa, prompting the evacuation of a small fishing town before weakening back to tropical storm force.

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Aruba Ports Authority Completes Bidding Process: Container Port to Move to Barcadera

see pg 3

Aruba Tourism Authority hosts a cerebral celebration of World Tourism Day 2013



ATA CEO Ronella Tjin Asjoe Croes

Since 1970, all those industriously toiling away in the tourism industry, particularly at the marketing and execu-

tive level, have been observing World Tourism Day on September 27, as it was declared by the United Nations World Tourism Organization, UNWTO.

This year, Aruba will be engaged that day in national elections held every four years, so the Aruba Tourism Authority, or ATA, the island's official marketing entity, conducted their annual World Tourism Day event yesterday morning at the Radisson Resort in Palm Beach.

A pleasant light breakfast was provided in the lobby,



Min. of Tourism Omar Oduber

where informative displays of some of Aruba's more important tourism assets, such as Arikok National Park,

were arranged. Rather than a frivolous party, the ATA has made it a practice to use this day to present statistical results on Aruba's tourism performance over the past year, as well as marketing strategies for the near future. Keeping in mind the UNWTO theme for 2013, "Tourism & Water: Protecting Our Common Future," invited speakers included Marlon Francis Ras, Head of Innovation & New Technology for Water-en Energiebedrijf, or W.E.B. Aruba N.V., the island's water and power producing plant.



Marlon Francis Ras of WEB

Keynote speaker was also the Owner and General Manager of the Bucuti and Tara Beach Resorts, Ewald Biemans.

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Aruba Tourism Authority hosts a cerebral celebration of World Tourism Day 2013

Continued from pg 1



Richard Cutting Miller of Resonance Consultancy

He has long been a pioneer of the island's tourism industry, winning many awards internationally, particularly in the areas of being eco-friendly. He was also founder and past chairman of the Aruba Hotel and Tourism Association Environmental Committee.

First to the podium was Aruba's Minister of Tourism, Transport & Labor, Otmar

present yesterday morning, following the results at the polls next week.

He wished all those working in tourism a "Masha Pabien" and the expectation of continued excellence on all fronts. He expressed great pride in all the changes implemented during his tenure, "all the new ideas that we have acted upon, all the work that was accomplished, to guarantee we were two steps ahead of the competition, was thanks mostly to our people and their smiles. People with passion for service and the tourism industry, who work hard and smart, who go that extra mile, problem-solvers, pioneers, innovators, entrepreneurs, and risk takers; men and women who were doing the best they can do. I can recall names and faces of many like your-



Executives of Aruba's tourism industry

the salary scale, no matter the position, has an important place in our tourism industry. As you know, tourism is about providing an exceptional experience to our guests. That experience is provided by every individual and employee; employees that take the time to anticipate the guests' needs, to serve with care and interest. To deliver on promises made...and deliver on the promise between a bad and good experience, a good and EXCEPTIONAL experience."

Following Minister Oduber, the CEO of the Aruba Tourism Authority, ATA, Ronella Tjin Asjoe-Croes presented the nuts and bolts summary of the positive results of their marketing efforts over the past four years, and their strategies for the years 2014 to 2016. The ATA is being assisted in this by the Resonance Consultancy firm, represented by the final speaker of the morning, Executive Vice President Richard Cutting-Miller.

Mr. Cutting-Miller gave an overview of the research his firm has done with thousands of surveys from island visitors, as well as Aruba's tourism stakeholders and their appraisal and input re-

garding ATA marketing efforts. He is a 25-year industry veteran dedicated to tourism strategy and master planning. He is the founder of Tourism Policy Group, and Executive Vice President at World Travel & Tourism Council.

He had kudos for the ATA's policy and efforts, citing the island is rated by TCI as #1 in the Caribbean for overall competitiveness, #3 in tourism receipts per capita and growth rate of tourism receipts, and #2 in added value to the GDP. He also cited infrastructure investment, port and road investment along with investment

in human capital and education, through Aruba's Tourism Enhancement Fund, as key elements as well.

Ewald Biemans addressed the environmental issues Aruba faces, with criticism for the lack of forethought in regards to future generations. "When it comes to tourism, "Green" means anything and everything, from using local products to promoting local culture," he opened. He described sustainability as defined in "Our Common Future," also known as the Brundtland Report.

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Display from Arikok Park

Oduber. He reminisced on how the day after being appointed to the position four years ago, following being elected, he had to address an important conference. He joked that he hoped to continue to be addressing vital tourism stakeholders, as were

themselves, who gave everything to contribute to a critical role in the success of Aruba."

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Aruba Ports Authority Completes Bidding Process: Container Port to Move to Barcadera



Representatives of all parties involved

With great satisfaction Aruba Ports Authority N.V. Director Alfonso Boekhoudt announced on Wednesday, September 18, the final phase of the tender process has been completed for relocating Aruba's container harbor to Barcadera, on the south side of the island. After careful review and completion of the customary bidding procedures, the work can now begin. The project will have an initial cost of 113,500,000 Aruban florins (US \$ 62 million dollars) with a final contracted cost of 128,000,000 to complete, including the cost of design, construction, finance, maintain, operate, and transfer to the Multi-Cargo Sea Terminal at Barcadera.

The initial concept of moving Aruba's container harbor from Oranjestad to Barcadera dates back to the 1996, explained APA Director Boekhoudt, originally proposed by the PM of the time, Henny Eman.

The completion of the project requires a great deal more than simply moving of the container port, as the port area of Barcadera needed to be renovated and upgraded sufficiently. The APA began with the first tender process for the concession contract publicized on February 15th, 2011. After careful review and evaluation, the contract was awarded to the local company Aruba Stevedoring Company (ASTECC) NV, which was represented at the announcement by Mr. Michael De L'Isle. The project will be implemented as a Public Private Partnership (PPP) under the Landlord Model. The concessionaire will be responsible for the investments in terminal infrastructure, labor, and operational activities.

The second public tender was announced on February 1st, 2013 for the refurbishing of the existing quay wall and the installation of anchors,

bollards, fendering, and a separate on-land-mooring-dolphin, the construction of a new quay wall extension, and the placement of breasting dolphins. Other activities consisting of dredging and construction of a scour protection at the sea bottom fronting the quay was also part of the total scope of work. On September 11th, 2013 APA accepted the proposal of the American Bridge company, which will be working with the local companies ALBO/Arubaanse Wegenbouw Maatschappij to complete this work. Both companies were represented by Mr. W. D. (Bob) Wind and Mr. Folkert van der Woude, respectively.

The port's vision is to realize a project assures long term sustainability. Mr. Greg Peterson, Director of Aruba's Freezone, was present, as this commercial park is now located adjacent to where the new container terminal will

be. He explained how crucial the logistics of the Container Harbor/Freezone/ and Airport Cargo receiving trade triangle will expedite import and export to and from Aruba, and the vital importance for diversification of Aruba's economy towards its continued growth.

"Moving the container harbor to the San Nicolas Port was an idea put out there, and the authorities involved, and myself, were very enthusiastic about this," commented Mr. Peterson. "However, after a thorough investigation revealed it would have been triple the cost to make the San Nicolas harbor usable over Barcadera, as well as the complication of Valero deploying it as a transshipment station, it was confirmed relocating to Barcadera was our most optimal course of action."

The moving of the container harbor is expected to generate new opportunities

for the port and the Freezone. This will also precipitate the beautification of the former container harbor area in Oranjestad for the enhancement of the island's tourism product. The plan includes expansion of Aruba's cruise port in Oranjestad, which will be able to undergo the necessary development to accommodate more cruise ships and visitors, which will further generate revenue in several sectors.

The container harbor project was cited as one of the largest industrial undertakings for Aruba during the last two decades, finally realized after almost two decades from when it was originally proposed. Materials are already arriving and the work on renovating the Barcadera Harbor is expected to fully commence by the end of this year. Projected completion date is 18-months to two years following.

The final negotiations were cited by those involved as "extensive, exhausting, and requiring great patience. Mr. Boekhoudt and Minister of Finance, Telecommunication, Utilities and Energy, Mr. Mike De Meza expressed their gratitude to all parties involved in assisting, advising, and supporting these efforts directly and indirectly, including Anthony Geerman of the APA, who headed the supervisory board for the negotiations.

By Rosalie Klein



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Aruba Tourism Authority...

Continued from pg 2

"Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present, without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." His eloquent and heartfelt talk will be covered in depth in Monday's edition of THE MORNING NEWS, as will a number of the other informative presentations, in near future issues of the paper, as there was just too much important information to be imparted in a single article.

Jerusha Rasmijn, Manager of the Aruba Convention Bureau, talked of their commitment to sustainability, particularly as it applies to the favors distributed to the attendees of the World Tourism Day event: mini-hourglasses for reducing shower time and saving water. These will be a gift and reminder at the many tourism booths tended by the ATA during the various international conventions in which they participate.

Though a day for celebration, World Tourism Day is also a day of reflection for all those working in the industry. The UNWTO, each year, selects a thought-provoking theme that encourages consideration of the environment, and the impact the build up of tourism will have on small communities, particularly those where the indigenous environment is an integral, perhaps primary factor in their tourism product. Aruba certainly fits into this category, where questions of sustainable development, vis a vis preservation of the nature and the natural culture of the island, are paramount issues.

By Rosalie Klein

After 30 years, Charles "Eddie" Benett retires from the Police Force



Charles "Eddie" Benett looks back on 30 years of faithful service to the Police Force and to the island of Aruba. Benett retires at age 60 to enjoy a well-deserved retirement. He leaves the force as First Class Inspector with lots of pleasant memories of his many years of service.

Eddie began his career in the Police Force on October 1st, 1983. He was one of the first colored police officers in The Hague in the 80's, which was quite a challenge in a city battling discrimination. This

was quite a challenge for Benett as a Police officer on the streets. In 1982 he entered the service of the City of The Hague. He specialized himself in the department of foreign affairs as well as information services.

The government of the Antilles requested Eddie to return to Aruba in 1983 to serve his country here. He began working in San Nicolaas as duty officer and later entered the Immigration Department. For various years he worked at the airport,

among other areas. Eddie also served as head of Interpol and later as coordinator of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Extraordinary Matters.

Eddie looks back with nostalgia at the Police Force of the past. This was a big family, loved and well-known by the community. Everyone knew each other and we lived together with the community. The contact with the community was important whenever there was a major incident. Communication was of grand importance and there was mutual respect. Police officers were very much involved in the community, according to Benett.

The Police Force is there to provide guidance and leadership.

It is this talent and knowledge, Benett claims, must be invested in the community. This way the community will be tranquil and can continue to flourish.

Congratulations, Eddie for your 30 years of dedicated service to the Police Force and to the community of Aruba.

We wish you much success in your future endeavors and a great retirement of rest and relaxation!

Netherlands: More convicted criminals will stay in jail pending an appeal

More people who have been convicted of a crime will not be allowed out of jail pending an appeal, if new justice ministry proposals become law.

The rule will apply to people who have been given a jail term of at least two years, or one year if the crime involved human victims.

Although many people do have to stay in jail while waiting for their appeal to be heard, some are allowed out and are only locked up once the appeal process has been completed.

Frustration

This situation not only leads to frustration in victims but undermines faith in the system, justice minister Ivo Opstelten says in a briefing to parliament.

People who are eventually found not guilty will be given compensation for the time spent in jail.

Legal experts told the NRC earlier that the plan conflicts with the principle of innocence until proved guilty.



Combat Dengue

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Marine Camp Aruba to remain open with ongoing relations unchanged



The rumor of the shutting down of the Aruba Marines Camp is incorrect. What is going to change is the organization of the Camp. They will be introducing a rotating system. This is due to the rigorous austerity budgetary plans to take place in the Netherlands.

The Dutch austerity plans entails that the Savaneta Marines Camp, just like in Curacao, where military personnel were stationed for periods of three years, will change. Military personnel will now be replaced every 4 months. This means that families will no longer be coming to reside on Aruba. This means that the Camp will remain open with the same amount of military personnel. The disadvantage will be for the owners of houses who normally rented out to the marines stationed on Aruba for a long period and also private school for children.

Former Minister of Defense, Hans Hillen, remarked that he laments that the Dutch austerity program also affects Aruba. He also indicated that this measure is but a proposition which still has to be approved by Parliament. Aruba still has the opportunity to convince The Netherlands to not adopt these measures, especially as there are no major funds involved in the process.

With respect to the Coast Guard, according to Hillen, this will remain unchanged. He indicated that the proposed changes for the Military Camp is simply an internal re-organization in order to save some money.

During Hans Hillen's tenure as Minister of Defense, he succeeded in maintaining the Marines Camp in Savaneta open despite the austerity measures announced back then. Aruba must now lobby to keep the Camp open without changes. Everyone must become aware of the fact, though, that The Netherlands is taking measures to reduce their Defense budget.

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Registration closes today! Master Course at IPA designed to meet language need

Last week IPA, the Aruban Educational Institute initiated four new academic courses, organized in collaboration with the University of the Netherlands Antilles (UNA). They are: the Master Program in English, Spanish, Dutch and Papiamentu. The Minister of Education, Arthur Dowers, who was on hand to witness the first class, indicated that the educational system internationally has budgetary limitations. Nonetheless, there

are many who want to continue studying at home but it is difficult for them to go abroad. Many of these persons are older and offering these type of possibilities locally makes it possible for these persons to advance studies, upgrade themselves and make a contribution to the quality of education on Aruba.

There are currently 30 students enrolled in these courses. Each course has duration of two years.

These special language knowledge courses will contribute to the realization of the quality of the use of language and will improve the quality of language instruction, according to the Minister of Education.

The interest for this Master Program in Dutch, English, Spanish and Papiamentu is very high; the program is also being offered in Bonaire. Registration is open until **Friday, September 20th.**

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The word "irie" has a plethora of meanings in Jamaican culture, from pure nirvana to feeling well satisfied, and patrons

will certainly feel at least the latter after a visit to Aruba's only authentic Jamaican restaurant, the newly opened Jamaica Mi Irie in San Nicolas.

The kitchen is the beloved effort of well known island chef, Jeffrey Roy Elliott, the master in the kitchen of Elliott's Italian restaurant adjacent to Costa Linda. Jeffrey has gone back to his Jamaican roots for this enthu-



Jeffrey Elliott and wife Daisy

siastic effort with his wife Daisy, who loves being the happy hostess.

The regular menu features the traditional cuisine such as Jerk Chicken, Fried Chicken, Beef oxtail, Stewed Pork, Jerk Pork, Fried Fish plus a house specialty, Curried Goat. These are regular items, but Jeffrey prefers to pepper his menu with various "Specials of the Day" made from what is fresh and seasonal.

This very cute, cozy place is open for lunch and dinner daily, except Sundays and Mondays, from 11:00 AM until 10:00 PM. It is located directly across from the BSL Laundry on Captain Rodgerstraat, which runs along the refinery wall parallel to the San Nicolas main street.

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International News

Facebook 'Like' button is free speech right: US court



WASHINGTON (AFP) - Hitting the "Like" button on Facebook is an element of free speech protected by the US constitution, a federal court ruled Wednesday, in a case closely watched by employment lawyers.

The US Court of Appeals based in Richmond, Virginia, made the judgment in the case of a Virginia sheriff's department worker who claimed he was fired for exercising his free speech rights -- in this case "liking" a political opponent of his boss.

"His conduct qualifies as

speech," the court said in a 81-page decision that sent the case back to a lower court for review of those issues.

"In sum, liking a political candidate's campaign page communicates the user's approval of the candidate and supports the campaign by associating the user with it.

"In this way, it is the Internet equivalent of displaying a political sign in one's front yard, which the Supreme Court has held is substantive speech."

The American Civil Liberties Union and Facebook both filed legal briefs supporting the view that the "Like" button is protected speech.

The ACLU brief said "liking" something on Facebook "expresses a clear message -- one recognized by millions of Facebook users and non-Facebook users -- and is both pure speech and symbolic expression that warrants constitutional protection."

More than 15,000 flee volcano in Indonesia

JAKARTA (AFP) - More than 15,000 people have now fled their homes since Mount Sinabung in western Indonesia spectacularly erupted this week, an official said Thursday.

The volcano in North Sumatra province erupted for the first time in three years on Sunday, spewing rocks and red-hot ash onto nearby villages, and has been rumbling ever since.

The volcano sent a column of smoke as high as three kilometres (two miles) into the sky on Tuesday, forcing villagers outside the immediate "danger" zone to flee.

"So far, 15,281 people have been evacuated in 16 temporary shelters across Karo district," district administration spokesman Robert Peranginangin told AFP.

He said that some villagers, mostly men, had been return-



ing to their homes by day to feed their cattle and returned to the shelters overnight.

Authorities warned airlines to take care flying in the vicinity of the volcano, while some light aircraft were advised to avoid the area.

The volcano had been dormant for nearly 100 years until it erupted in August and September 2010, forcing about 12,000 people to flee their homes.

Indonesia has dozens of ac-

tive volcanoes and straddles major tectonic fault lines known as the "Ring of Fire" between the Pacific and Indian oceans.

Last month five people were killed and hundreds evacuated when a volcano on a tiny island in East Nusa Tenggara province erupted.

The country's most active volcano, Mount Merapi in central Java, killed more than 350 people in a series of violent eruptions in 2010.

Tim Cook says Apple won't go down 'junk' road

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Apple has no intention of competing in the "junk" segment of the electronics market, chief executive Tim Cook says.

In an interview published Thursday as Apple prepared to launch sales of two new iPhones, Cook said he remains unfazed by Apple's eroding share of the smartphone market.

"There's a segment of the market that really wants a product that does a lot for them, and I want to compete like crazy for those customers."

The comments come with Apple facing criticism for maintaining a comparatively high price for its new iPhone 5C, which had been seen as a smartphone for emerging mar-

kets and budget-conscious consumers.

The iPhone 5C will sell for \$549 in the United States, and higher in China and other markets, where carrier subsidies are rare.

"We never had an objective to sell a low-cost phone," Cook told the magazine. "Our

primary objective is to sell a great phone and provide a great experience, and we figured out a way to do it at a lower cost."

Cook said he was not overly concerned about the decline in Apple's stock price, which has fallen sharply since hitting a peak last year.



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UN must act on Syria next week: Kerry

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The UN Security Council must be prepared to agree to a binding resolution on Syria's chemical weapons next week, US Secretary of State John Kerry said Thursday.

A "definitive" UN report had proven that the Syrian regime was behind an August chemical weapons attack, Kerry said.

"Now the test comes. The Security Council must be prepared to act next week. It is vital for the international community to stand up and speak out," he added.

Kerry is leaving Sunday to join world leaders gathering in New York for the annual UN General Assembly set to be dominated by the civil war in Syria.

"Let's not spend time debating what we already know," Kerry pleaded. Instead, we have to recognize that the world is watching to see whether we can avert military action and achieve through peaceful means the destruction of Syria's chemical arms stocks, he said.

Mexico death toll nears 100...

Continued from pg 1

Luis Felipe Puente, the national civil protection coordinator, said the death toll rose to 97 from 81, with 65 of them registered in the southwestern state of Guerrero.

Guerrero was the hardest-hit state from the dual onslaught of Manuel and sister storm Ingrid on the east coast this week, which drenched most of the country, damaging bridges, roads and tens of thousands of homes.

The disaster left the Pacific coast resort of Acapulco cut off from the world, marooning tourists and residents, while a massive mudslide swamped a mountain hamlet of 400 people west of the city.

Ediberto Tabarez, the mayor of Atoyac de Alvarez, a municipality that oversees La Pintada, told AFP that at least 15 bodies have been found after more than 20 homes were crushed.

The threat of a new landslide in the coffee-growing village of La Pintada delayed a mission to seek 58 missing people.

But the federal govern-

ment said it had yet to confirm any deaths and that so far survivors testified that they had removed five bodies from the site.

Interior Minister Miguel Angel Osorio Chong said rescue teams were unable to start the search because water was gushing from the hill, threatening to send more rock and mud over the village.

Survivors of the disaster who were evacuated to Acapulco recalled hearing a rumble before the earth came crashing down on houses, the church and the school as people were having independence day lunch last Monday.

"It was an ugly noise, worse than a bomb," said Ana Clara Catalan, 17, who was preparing corn tortillas when the earth collapsed.

More than half of Acapulco was flooded, stranding 40,000 tourists who sought airlifts while looters ransacked stores.

While Manuel churned in the west, a new tropical cyclone threatened to form in the east and cause more misery.

Early Bird Menu

5:30 pm - 7:00 pm



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Colonoscopies could reduce cancer risk by 40 percent



WASHINGTON (AFP) - A colonoscopy every 10 years could prevent 40 percent of colorectal cancers, according to a massive US study out Wednesday, supporting the effectiveness of the commonly-used test.

Those with family history of these types of cancer -- the second-leading cause of cancer deaths in the US -- should have more frequent screenings, the study in the New England Journal of Medicine said.

The results confirm the current recommendations for colonoscopies, offering evidence it is particularly useful in preventing cancers that originate in the proximal, or upper, part of the colon.

"Our study provides strong evidence that colonoscopy is an effective technique for preventing cancers of both distal and proximal regions of the colorectum," said Shuji Ogino, a lead author from the Harvard School of Public Health.

The screening is crucial in preventing proximal cancers, he explained, because another test, called sigmoidoscopy, uses a scope to examine only the lower part of the colon and "alone is insufficient for preventing proximal cancer."

Unlike sigmoidoscopy, a colonoscopy examines the entire colon, using a camera-

equipped device that also has tools to remove cysts and benign tumors.

The authors analyzed data from nearly 89,000 participants in two long-term studies, basing their conclusions on surveys completed every two years between 1988 and 2008.

The researchers also obtained information on any colonoscopies and sigmoidoscopies conducted. They documented 1,815 cases of colorectal cancer and 474 resulting deaths.

They found that both screenings reduced the risk of developing, or dying from, colorectal cancers.

But only the more complete, colonoscopy screening reduced the risk of cancers in the upper part of the colon -- though even still, its effects were less successful than for preventing lower bowel cancers.

They estimated that, if all the participants had undergone a colonoscopy, the overall risk of colorectal cancers would have been reduced by 40 percent -- preventing 61 percent of lower colon cancers and just 22 percent of upper colon cancers.

The researchers speculated there may be molecular or biological differences between upper and lower colon cancers behind the lower success rate.

Health & Living

Kids health tip:



--Daily activity is very important for children and is part of being a healthy child. Exercise helps strengthen their bones and muscles. Being active helps children stay fit and have a feeling of overall well-being.

There are so many different activities and it is important that children find activities that they enjoy so it does not feel like exercise.

Kids should be getting at least an hour of exercise every day, but they're ultimately falling short. In fact, 58 percent of children are playing outside less than 4 days a week, according to research from the YMCA.

Parents should encourage their kids to do a variety of activities so that they can work together.

Aerobic exercise can be fun for both adults and kids. Examples of aerobic activities include:

- basketball
- bicycling
- ice-skating
- inline skating
- soccer
- swimming
- tennis
- walking
- jogging
- running
- zumba

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Sci-Tech

Jordan, China ink \$2.5 bn deal to build oil shale-fired plant

AMMAN (AFP) - Jordan and China have inked a memorandum of understanding to build a \$2.5 billion (1.8 billion euros) oil shale-fired power plant in the kingdom to produce 900 megawatts of electricity, media said Thursday.

Under the agreement, signed Wednesday in Beijing during a visit of King Abdullah II, a consortium of China's Shandong Electric Power Construction Corporation (SEPCO III) and HTJ Group as well as Jordan's Al-Lajjun Oil Shale Company will build the power station in the southern city of Karak.

"Jordan has 31 billion tonnes of oil shale, the world's fourth largest reserves," state-run Petra news agency quoted

Minister of Trade, Industry, and Supply Hatem Halawani as saying.

Under a separate deal, a consortium of the China International Water and Electric Corporation and Xinjiang Goldwind Science and Technology Company, will design, build and operate a wind-powered 300-megawatt plant in the kingdom, Petra said without giving further details.

Jordan imports 95 percent of its energy needs as the desert kingdom of 6.3 million people has few natural resources.

Amman is seeking to develop nuclear technology to meet its growing energy requirements.

Angry Birds Star Wars II app tops download charts

HELSINKI (AFP) - The latest instalment of the Angry Birds video game series from Finnish game maker Rovio topped download rankings Thursday on its release in several Western countries.

"Angry Birds Star Wars II" was the most downloaded application from AppStores in several countries, including the US, France and Germany, according to download market analysts App Annie.

In China, where Rovio has announced plans for a major expansion, the game was the fourth most popular.

Earlier in September Rovio also launched a line of toys made by US toy giant Hasbro, which allow players to "teleport" characters into the video game world using web cameras on mobile phones and tablets.

Since launching the game in 2009 the Finnish company has enjoyed spectacular growth with its Angry Birds franchise, diversifying into theme parks, 3D film making and educational tools.

Some analysts have cast doubts over the company's expansion beyond video games. However Koopee Hiltunen at Finnish game industry organisation Neogames said this latest success was proof that the strategy was working.

"Rovio has shown that they are following a strategy that succeeds," he said.

Angry Birds Star Wars II is the seventh release in the series. As with the previous games, players use catapults to fire birds onto pigs who have stolen their eggs.

In this latest instalment of the game, based on the Star Wars sci-fi films, players are invited to "join the pork side" of the force.

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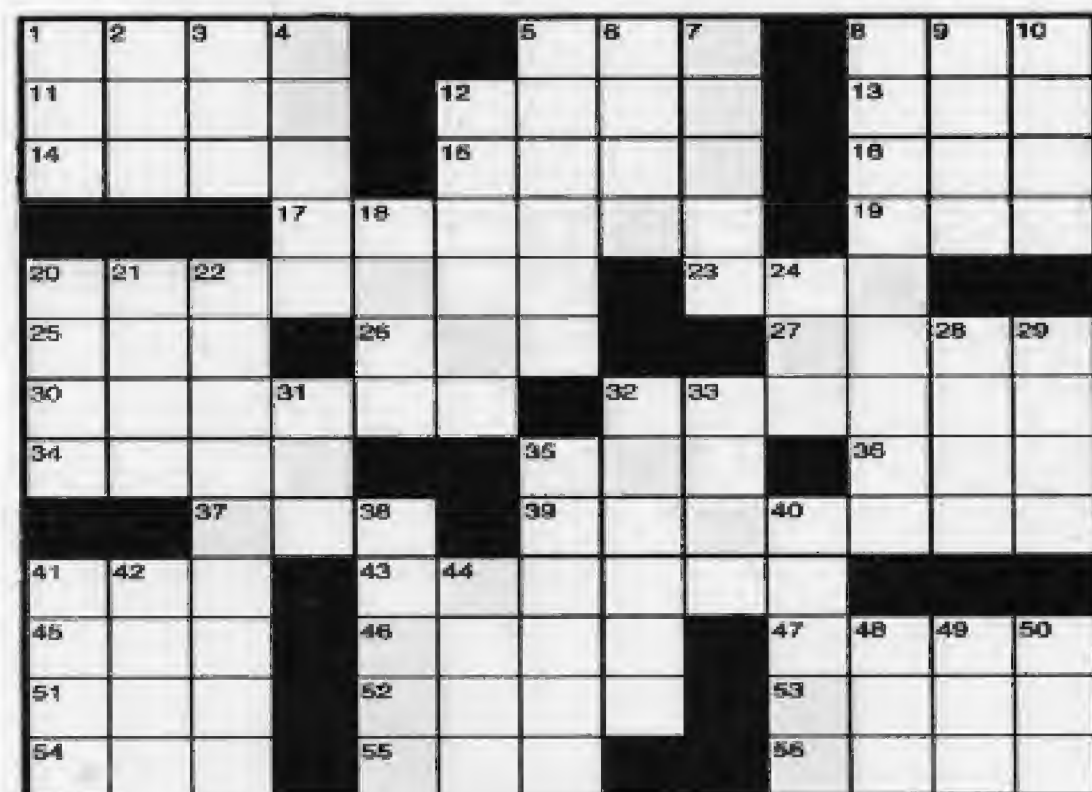
ACROSS

1. Oven
5. Businesses (abbr.)
8. Curious
11. Toast topping
12. Blockhead
13. Entertainer Zadora
14. Dispatched e-mail
15. Director Kazan
16. Pea capsule
17. Stone workers
19. "Are you a man ____"
20. Plotter
23. Consists of
25. U.S. spy org.
26. Audit agcy.
27. Like a dishrag
30. In repose (2 wds.)
32. Swimming-pool cleaner
34. Informal message
35. Wager
36. Wind dir.
37. Lennon's widow Yoko
39. ____ on (researches) (2 wds.)
41. Bear's lair

43. Serviceable
45. Cassius Clay, today
46. Max of "Barney Miller"
47. Fountain or Sampras
51. "Dateline ____"
52. Obscure
53. Disclose
54. Where to go for a tow (abbr.)
55. Football tallies (abbr.)
56. Mild cussword

DOWN

1. Certain boxing wins (abbr.)
2. Island (Fr.)
3. Actor Cariou
4. Denial words (2 wds.)
5. Uses dye
6. Actor Ken
7. Hide for future use
8. ____ attract
9. French couturier
10. Baby word
12. Wasteland
18. Fifi's friends
20. Swindler's offering
21. Reference
22. Mouth organ
24. ____ Saints' Day
28. Café list
29. ____ school
31. Ages and ages
32. Pathetic, as an attempt
33. Eur. language
35. Plaits
38. ____ to (should)
40. What sonar measures
41. Actress Wynter
42. Napoleon's exile island
44. Commented
48. Width of Shaq's shoes
49. Doting attention, for short
50. Caribou's kin



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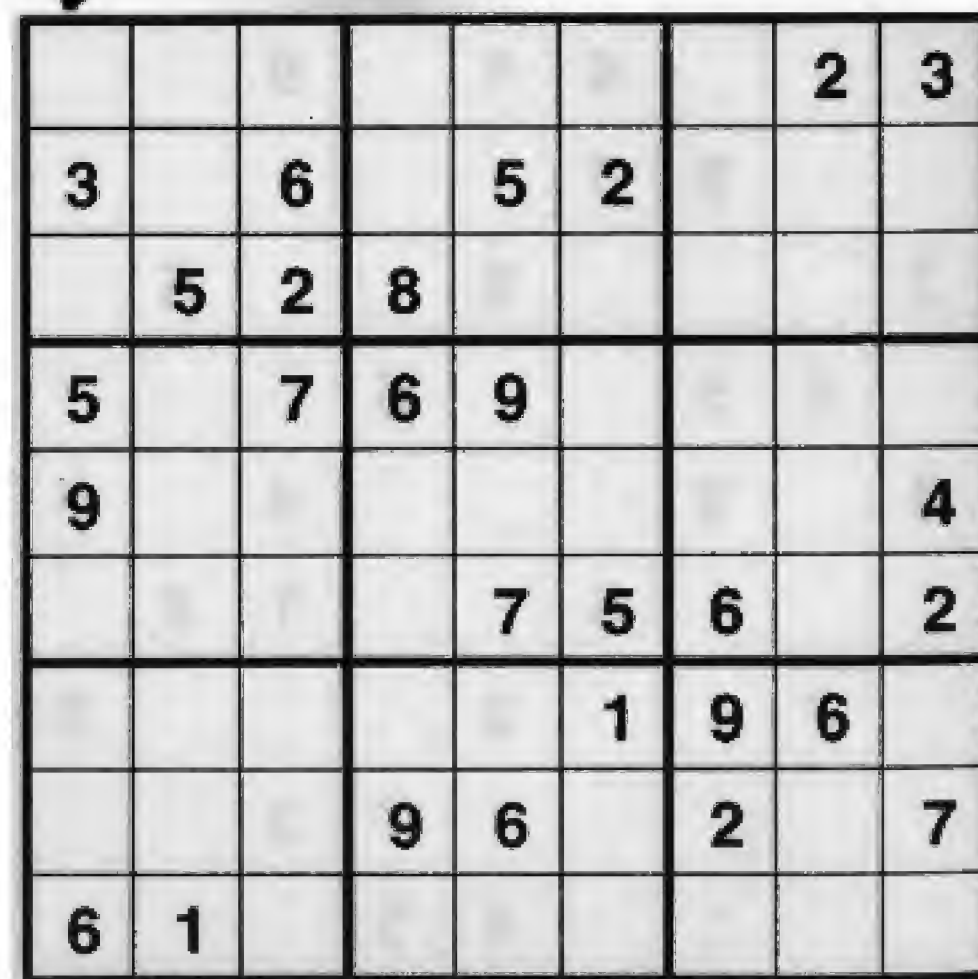
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Sudoku



SOLUTION

5	9	8	2	9	2	6	1	9
2	1	2	6	9	6	5	8	7
8	8	6	1	7	5	8	2	2
2	8	9	5	2	1	7	6	8
7	5	2	8	2	6	1	9	6
1	6	9	7	6	9	2	2	5
9	2	7	8	6	8	2	5	1
6	8	1	2	5	1	9	7	5
6	2	5	8	1	7	8	6	2

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9. A number is Never repeated in a row or column. In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9.

Daily Exchange Rates				
Current as of: 09/19/2013				
	Currency Code	Buying rate banknotes	Buying Cheques	Selling Rate
U.S.A.	USD	1.77	1.78	1.80
Dutch Antilles	ANG	98.00	100.00	100.20
Canada	CAD	1.77	1.79	1.76
Britain	GBP	2.80	2.85	2.91
Switzerland	CHF	191.71	192.43	196.99
Netherlands	EUR	230.59	232.69	243.67
Sweden	SEK	25.91	26.63	28.69
Denmark	DKK	30.23	30.95	32.91
Norway	NOK	30.67	31.39	31.32
Japan	JPY	214.88	216.84	181.72
(per 10,000)				
All rates for amounts up to AWG 100,00 per item.				

South African firm sparkles after monster diamond finds

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) - A South African diamond company saw its share price surge nearly 70 percent this week, when it reported uncovering four large gems weighing more than 100 carats each.

Rockwell Diamonds a mid-tier miner, announced news of the discovery on Tuesday. By Thursday its shares on the Toronto stock exchange were worth 69 percent more.

The four stones weighed between 116-carats and 168-carats.

That means each stone weighs at least 23 grams -- roughly half the weight an egg.

Depending on quality the gems could be worth tens of millions of dollars each.

The stones -- two of which are of "exceptional" quality -- were found in the Middle Orange River of South Africa, a region known for its large and high quality gemstones.

"We have recovered four stones exceeding 100 carats in three weeks," Stephanie Lederer, Rockwell investor relations executive in South Africa, told AFP.

The company is dual listed on the Johannesburg and Toronto stock exchanges.

US stocks end mixed one day after big rally

NEW YORK CITY (AFP) - US stocks Thursday closed mixed, cooling off after Wednesday's torrid rally in the wake of the Federal Reserve's decision to maintain an aggressive stimulus program.

At the closing bell, the Dow Jones Industrial Average dropped 40.39 (0.26 percent) to 15,636.55.

The broad-based S&P 500 dipped 3.20 (0.19 percent) to 1,722.32. Both the Dow and

the S&P 500 reached record highs Wednesday after the Fed announcement.

The tech-rich Nasdaq Composite Index rose 5.74 (0.15 percent) to 3,789.38.

"You've got to expect a little bit of a pull-back" after Wednesday's "very explosive" rally, said Peter Cardillo of Rockwell Global Capital. "And it's not that much of a pullback."

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FINANCE

Eleven firms to join huge Brazil oil auction

RIO DE JANEIRO (AFP) - At least 11 oil firms paid more than \$900,000 each to join an auction next month for rights to explore Brazil's huge deepwater Libra field, authorities said Thursday.

The National Petroleum Agency did not identify the companies involved but Britain's BP and BG Group, as well as American firm Exxon-Mobil are not on the list, according to ANP director Magda Chambrind.

The oil regulator chief said she expected about 40 companies to bid for Libra. "Now, there is an international context," the oil regulator's chief said.

The enormous Libra oil prospect, found in 2010,

marked the largest oil discovery in Brazilian history.

It is believed to hold between eight and 12 billion barrels of recoverable oil, and covers an area of 1,500 square kilometers (600 square miles) in ultra deep oil fields.

The auction, scheduled for October 21, will be for a 35-year non-renewable concession to work the field.

In 30 years, the Libra field could bring in returns of \$408 million -- \$135 million in royalties and \$273 million in oil participation -- according to Chambrind.

Next month's auction will be the first such sale since the 2007 discovery of huge pre-salt deepwater reserves off southeastern Brazil.

ANP estimates that those reserves, buried beneath several kilometers of ocean, bedrock and hot salt beds, could hold more than 100 billion barrels of high-quality recoverable crude and could turn Brazil into one of the world's top exporters.

Brazil hopes to boost its oil output from around two million barrels a day currently to nearly five million by 2020, largely thanks to the pre-salt reserves.

State-run energy giant Petrobras will have a mandatory 30 percent participation in the Libra concession.

ANP will auction the remaining 70 percent, in which Petrobras can also participate alone or as part of a consortium with other firms.

IMF supports Fed decision against stimulus taper

WASHINGTON (AFP) - International Monetary Fund chief Christine Lagarde voiced her support Thursday for the US Federal Reserve's decision not to cut its stimulus, saying that was what the IMF recommended.

"For the moment, it's clearly the approach that we've always recommended," she said, a day after the Fed stunned markets by not cutting its \$85 billion a month bond-buying program.

Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke had spoken of a potential cut to the program since May, but the IMF had repeatedly cautioned against pulling in too early and too quickly, wary of the impact it would have on the global economy.

Bernanke said Wednesday that the Fed had decided to wait for more signs of strength in the economy and the jobs market before reducing its bond buys, which he had in June predicted could be completely wound up by mid-2014.

Lagarde told reporters that was what the IMF thought was the right course.

"The IMF has always said... that it should be gradual, that it should be based on data with clear indication on what the criteria would be" for tapering the stimulus.

"We said it should be well-communicated, and we advocated a dialogue."

"So clearly the decision that

was communicated yesterday, and the various comments made by the chairman, show that it's exactly what we at the Fund have advocated."

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer

N	O	S		A	D	J	S		A	R	R
E	A	C	H		K	E	E	P		R	E
T	H	A	I		A	R	S	O	N	I	S
S	U	N	N		A	U	T	O			
				D	E	L	I	S		B	L
G	M	C		A	O	L		C	L	O	U
A	I	R	D	R			F	I	E	S	T
G	R	O	A	N		B	I	N		S	U
S	E	W	N		S	A	N	D	S		
				Z	I	N		Y	E	L	L
R	U	T	A	B	A	G	A		L	O	O
A	G	E		M	R	I	S		L	A	D
P	H	D		S	E	E	K			N	E

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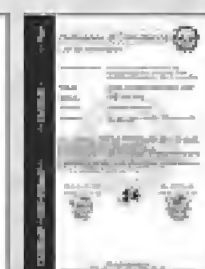
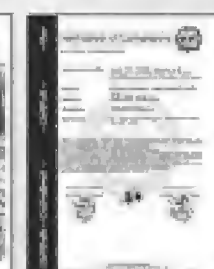
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Singer Carole King to get Grammys honor



LOS ANGELES (AFP) - Legendary US singer-songwriter Carole King was named Thursday as the recipient of an annual honor by organizers of the Grammys, the music industry's annual awards show set for January.

King, whose 1971 album "Tapestry" stayed in the US music charts for six years, will be serenaded by artists including former partner James Taylor, as well as Lady Gaga, Bette Midler and the Dixie Chicks, when she is given the MusiCares Person of the Year award.

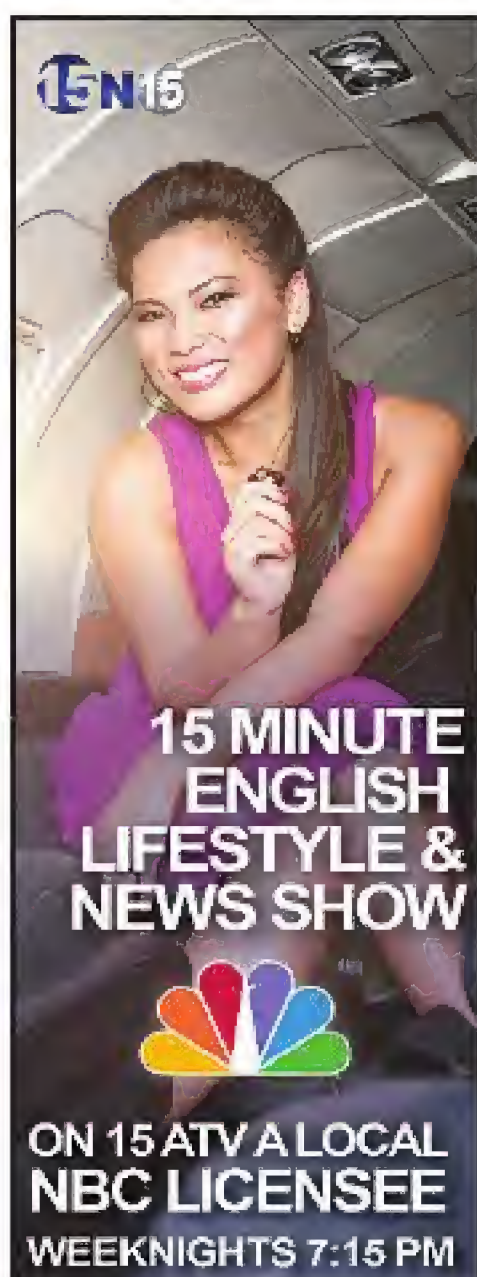
"Her contributions as a songwriter and performer have truly changed the landscape of pop music, and her philanthropy speaks volumes about her generosity and personal

passions," said Neil Portnow, president of the Recording Academy, which runs the Grammys.

The 71-year-old singer's biggest hits include "You've Got a Friend" and "Will You Still Love Me Tomorrow?" She has won four Grammys over a long career, and is a member of the Rock and Roll and Songwriters' Halls of Fame.

Recent recipients of the MusiCares prize, established in 1989, include Paul McCartney, Bruce Springsteen and Barbra Streisand. Other past winners include Elton John, Paul Simon, Billy Joel and Bono. Taylor was given the gong in 2006.

The award will be given out in Los Angeles on January 14, in the run-up to the Grammys show on January 26.



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Colombians face threats, death for trying to reclaim land

BOGOTA (AFP) - Colombians seeking to return home and reclaim land lost in decades of war face threats and even death, Human Rights Watch said Tuesday.

Since 1985, the group said, 4.8 million people have been driven from their homes in the Latin American country where leftist rebels took up arms against the state nearly 50 years ago. The ensuing fighting has left as many as 600,000 dead.

In total, HRW estimated, displaced Colombians left behind 6 million hectares of land as they sought safety -- and now those returning home are being intimidated and face more abuse.

It documented 17 cases of killings of displaced land

claimants and leaders since 2008, in which it said 21 people lost their lives.

These cases contain "circumstances that provide compelling evidence that the attacks were motivated by the victims' land restitution efforts or activism," it said.

Pointing to a wider pattern, the group said that, as of August the Attorney General's office reported it was probing 49 cases of killings of "leaders, claimants, or participants in land restitution matters" carried out in half of Colombia's 32 states since 2000. In these reported cases, it said, 56 people were murdered.

HRW also recorded more than 80 cases in which victims received "serious threats," as

well as more than 30 cases of "new displacement in which restitution claimants fled their homes yet again because of abuses related to their efforts to reclaim land, or similar activism."

Many of those being targeted are reclaiming property through a new "Victims Law" enacted in 2011, it said, warning that inaction could significantly worsen the situation.

"President (Juan Manuel) Santos is making a serious and unprecedented effort to return land, but violence and intimidation against displaced families attempting to return home threaten to sabotage his banner human rights initiative," Jose Miguel Vivanco, HRW's Americas director, said in a state-

ment.

But "unless Colombia starts to ensure justice for abuses against land claimants, they will continue to be killed, threatened, and displaced for seeking to reclaim what's theirs."

The Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia have been waging an insurgency against the state since 1964, making it the longest armed conflict in Latin America.

Peace talks between the government and the FARC, which has an estimated 8,000 fighters, began in November in Havana.

A government commission recently estimated that 220,000 people have lost their lives in the insurgency. Other estimates run as high as 600,000 dead.



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5 Burgers Aruba: Now your best breakfast bargain!



Delicious Breakfast

-- A favorite stop for a great burger for lunch or dinner has just expanded their hours and menu to offer some of the best breakfast bargains to be found in Palm Beach. Owners Aaron and Rosie Walisever are living their dream: a home on paradise while welcoming all and

sundry to their proud undertaking. 5 Burgers Aruba. The couple's fanatical dedication to giving their customers what they really want has resulted in a unique menu from an internationally known franchise with a "5", which now includes breakfast.

"You never get a second chance to make a first impression," believes Aaron. Upon entering 5 Burgers Aruba in The Village Mall in Palm Beach, one is struck by utterly spotless surroundings and a smiling, friendly, attentive service crew. Of course, the main item on the menu is burgers-the way they were meant to be, thick and juicy, made fresh daily and 100% pure beef, the kind that made the hamburger a traditional American treat.

However, beginning at 7 a.m., patrons can now order 2

eggs any style, (omelets with 3 fillings are \$7.99) toast and coffee with unlimited refills for the special introductory price of only \$3.99, or All-you-can-eat pancakes for \$6.99! A new plate called the "Home Run" comes with 2 eggs, bacon or sausage, 2 pancakes, toast & home fries - for only \$9.99! Best of all - unlimited coffee or tea - that is, refillable and never ending is only \$.79! Breakfast is served from 8am until noon. Famous for their fries made from fresh potatoes, Aaron has been working for months on devising the most irresistible home fries recipe, chunky and tender with skins still on; after much testing and tasting, he got the thumbs up from his harshest critic, Rosie; so this is another treat you have to try.

A glance at their burger menu will certainly tempt you to return for lunch or dinner, to sample their famous specialty items such as the Gouda, Farmer's or Man Burger (al-



most 12 ounces of choice beef), and a Western Burger with Aarons' secret-recipe crispy onion rings. All of these can be personalized with an incredible array of toppings, (mushrooms, jala-peño peppers, bacon, cheese, lettuce, tomato...whatever, the list goes on) at absolutely no extra cost.

5 Burger portions are ENORMOUS! Aaron suggests that even their small serving of fries is enough to be shared by

two. He was very amused to watch a famous French chef demonstrating the best way to make fried potatoes on a gourmet cooking show and could only comment "He stole my recipe!"

Try them the English way-with vinegar, and you'll wonder how you ever ate fries without it. This same 5-star chef also swears by Gouda as the best topping for the ideal gourmet cheeseburger.

5 Burgers is now open early until 10-ish at night; delivery is available to both the high-rise and low-rise hotel and beach district at now extra cost for orders over \$50. Enjoy a great lunch without ever leaving the beach by calling 586-3904. However, we suggest you stop by and enjoy their authentic, heartfelt hospitality; it is not unusual for either owner to sit and chat, sharing their knowledge of the island while making sure patrons are happy with their meal.

Gold Coast Aruba: This is the time to invest

-- Management of Gold Coast Aruba, the island's newest and most innovative gated community, reports that sales have been very good and encouraging as the global economy recovers and people looking to purchase vacation homes have found that Gold Coast is an outstanding investment value. Director of Sales, Fito Croes has noticed a surprising percentage of owners in reality do not spend a great amount of time personally to use the villas or town homes they purchase, but are taking advantage of Gold Coast's rental services to turn their investment into ready income.

"The greater portion of home owners are using their "home away from home" in Aruba to escape the winter months, or spend holidays with the family on the island," he remarked, "but I am gratified by how many are buying because they felt secure with real estate investment on Aruba. They really study the history and economy of the island and are impressed with the political stability and continually increasing value of prime locations. Gold Coast is in the heart of Malmok, considered Aruba's most exclusive community where the value of properties has only increased over time. It is only minutes to the best beaches and all the action, and yet offers a quiet and secluded getaway, we are very pleased by



the response to our concept."

Fito, with his sister Mayrin and brother Rudy operate Cas Bon, which has been constructing homes and building developments for all budgets for nearly twenty years. "Gold Coast Aruba is the jewel in our crown," observes Fito. "We were very excited about this project and the scope of actual and planned facilities and amenities. We have spoken to countless island visitors to find out what they would really want in a permanent residence on Aruba, and took from there."

Input from frequent vacationers who have dreamed of their own home in Aruba contributed to the realization of Gold Coast Aruba which when complete will be a community

of 260 town homes, villas and condominiums with a stunning clubhouse complemented by two additional community pool areas. The Clubhouse is about to start construction and will offer to the community homeowners and visitors 2 tennis courts, full service spa and fitness center as well as a stunning pool area and is expected to be complete by early 2013. It will also house a restaurant and mini-market.

Owners who purchased upon the groundbreaking only a few short years ago, are already enjoying a nearly 50% appreciation on their investment, particularly those taking advantage of the on site management's rental services program. There is always a great demand for Aruba and facili-

ties such as those at Gold Coast, make it easy for some owners to see a valuable return on their investment.

The design of the residences and public areas is open, airy and spacious, taking full advantage of the island environment, with quality construction and finishing available. Partnering with two of Aruba's top providers of kitchens and bathrooms enables developers to offer custom options allowing buyers to individualize their homes. An elegant and chic furniture package is available or island designers will assist owners in finishing the décor to their specific tastes.

There are many aspects to purchasing property, not the

least is the future value of the investment. To further enhance this, Gold Coast management have inaugurated a number of in-house services and have recently become affiliated Interval International, the world's largest network of vacation ownership properties which provides an unlimited international pool of investors to tap for ownership and rental prospects. Property exchange for a vacation in another destination is also available through the Interval International affiliation. Gold Coast's own rental services have also proven highly successful in assisting owners in renting their villas; 24-hour security and maintenance services also tip the scales when it is time to make a decision. Aside from all this, housekeeping, child care, catering services, car rental through its partnership with AVIS car rental are also available as well as pre-shopping services so cupboards and refrigerators are stocked upon arrival, which can also be arranged through their property management department. Personnel are also available to assist in arranging restaurant reservations and island activities.

Visit their website: www.goldcoastaruba.com for more details and availability or call 586-2200 to arrange a personal tour.

SPORTS

Boxing: Former champ Ken Norton dies at 70



LOS ANGELES (AFP) - Former boxing champion Ken Norton, considered one of the greatest heavyweights of his era, died Wednesday of a heart attack, his manager said. He was 70.

The fighter was best known for beating Muhammad Ali in 1973, breaking the Hall of Famer's jaw in the process.

Norton passed away Wednesday afternoon at an Arizona care facility, said friend and manager Patrick Tenore.

Norton, who suffered a stroke last year, ended his brilliant career with a record of 42 wins, seven losses, one draw and 33 knockouts.

He fought in the 1970s era of magnificent heavyweights -- a group that also included Ali, George Foreman, Joe Frazier, Leon Spinks and Jimmy Young.

"They called us handsome. Muhammad they called pretty. But the fairest of them all Ken Norton," Foreman wrote on his Twitter page Wednesday. "What a loss to all of us."

Other tributes also quickly poured in for Norton, who was once given the title of the "Father of the Year" by the Los Angeles Times in 1977.

Norton was born in Jacksonville, Illinois, and was an award-winning athlete in American football and track and field at Jacksonville High School. His prowess on the gridiron earned him a scholarship to Northeast Missouri State University.

He started boxing during his four year-stint in the United States Marine Corps, which he joined in 1963.

In March 1973, Norton shocked the boxing world by winning a split decision over Ali at the San Diego Sports Arena.

He would go on to fight Ali twice more, losing both times. He lost a split decision to Ali later in 1973 and by a unanimous decision in 1976 at Yankee Stadium.

In 1974, Norton fought and lost to Foreman in Venezuela for the World Boxing Council and World Boxing Association

heavyweight titles. The fight was stopped in the second round after Foreman knocked him down three times.

Norton, who was nicknamed "The Black Hercules", also fought Holmes, losing his title late in his career to the up-and-coming heavyweight in 1978. It was the first defense of the WBC title for Norton, who fought in the era where championship fights lasted 15 rounds.

Former heavyweight champ Mike Tyson said he met Norton when Tyson was still an amateur boxer.

Norton had what some called an unconventional style. He would lean forward backing his opponent up while holding both arms up high and across his face like he was looking through the bars of a gridiron helmet.

That style helped him win scores of fights and after he retired he starred in movies, appearing in about 20 Hollywood films.

The character of Apollo Creed in "Rocky" was originally going to be played by Norton, but when he back out of the role, Carl Weathers took the job.

Norton was involved in a serious car accident in 1986 on Mulholland Drive in Los Angeles. He recovered, and three years later he was inducted to the World Boxing Hall of Fame.

Reflecting a strong athletic pedigree, one of Norton's sons, Ken Jr., played in the National Football League for the Dallas Cowboys and San Francisco 49ers.



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BOSTON -- The Red Sox had an opportunity to clinch a spot in the playoffs for the first time since 2009 on Wednesday night. But that wait will continue for at least until today. Chris Davis grounded a two-run single into center field in the 12th inning and the Baltimore Orioles held on to beat the Sox, 5-3. With Cleveland losing at Kansas City, a victory would have guaranteed the Sox at least a wild-card playoff spot. But there was no celebration of any kind before a sellout crowd of 38,540. The Sox also missed a chance to stretch their lead on Oakland in the race for the best record in the American League and home-field advantage throughout the post-season. They remain 2½ games up on the Athletics. (David Ortiz slammed his helmet after he grounded into a double play in the 10th inning.)



KIEV (AFP) - Fabien Camus (L) of KRC Genk fights for the ball with Domagoj Vida (R) of FC Dynamo Kiev during the UEFA Europa League Group G football match between Dynamo Kiev and KRC Genk in Kiev yesterday. Dynamo Kiev side lost 1-0

REMEMBER

to



Buckle up



NFL: Browns trade ex-top pick Richardson
INDIANAPOLIS (AFP) - The Cleveland Browns traded former number three overall draft pick Trent Richardson to the Indianapolis Colts, the National Football League club announced on Wednesday. The Colts gave up a first round pick in 2014 for running back Richardson, who had been touted as the centerpiece of the Browns' rebuilding campaign. Richardson finished with 1,317 total yards and 12 touchdowns last season for the Browns. In his first two games this season, he has just 105 yards.



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East	W	L	Pct	GB
BOSTON	92	61	.601	--
TAMPA	83	68	.550	8.0
BALTIMORE	81	70	.536	10.0
YANKEES	80	72	.526	11.5
TORONTO	69	82	.457	22.0

Central	W	L	Pct	GB
DETROIT	88	64	.579	--
CLEVELAND	82	70	.539	6.0
KANSAS	80	72	.526	8.0
MINNESOTA	65	86	.430	22.5
CHICAGO	60	92	.395	28.0

West	W	L	Pct	GB
OAKLAND	89	63	.586	--
TEXAS	82	69	.543	6.5
LA ANGELES	74	78	.487	15.0
SEATTLE	67	85	.441	22.0
HOUSTON	51	101	.336	38.0

National League

East	W	L	Pct	GB
ATLANTA	90	62	.592	--
WASHINGTON	81	71	.533	9.0
PHILADELPHIA	71	81	.467	19.0
NY METS	68	83	.450	21.5
MIAMI	56	96	.368	34.0

Central	W	L	Pct	GB
ST. LOUIS	89	63	.586	--
PITTSBURGH	87	65	.572	2.0
CINCINNATI	87	66	.569	2.5
MILWAUKEE	68	83	.450	20.5
CHICAGO	63	89	.414	26.0

West	W	L	Pct	GB
DODGERS	87	65	.572	--
ARIZONA	77	74	.510	9.5
SAN DIEGO	71	80	.470	15.5
SAN FRANCISCO	70	82	.461	17.0
COLORADO	69	84	.451	18.5

x-Clinched Playoff Spot; y-Division Champ

Aruban delegation off to 2013 South American Youth Games



Tennis: Murray to undergo back surgery

LONDON (AFP) - Wimbledon champion Andy Murray is unlikely to play again this season after pulling out of next week's Thailand Open to undergo minor back surgery.

Murray has been bothered by a disc problem in his lower back for much of this year and he opted to skip the French Open to rest the injury before he went on to claim a maiden Wimbledon title.

The 26-year-old responded to a flood of well-wishing messages on Twitter by tweeting his thanks for the support.

Murray's injury flared up badly in May during the Rome Masters, prompting him to abandon a second-round match against Marcel Granollers and pull out of Roland Garros.

The disc problem affects a nerve in Murray's lower back which can send pain shooting down his hip and upper leg.

-- Last Tuesday some 20 athletes together with their trainers left for Lima, Peru where they will be competing in the first edition of the 2013 South American Youth Games, which will be from Today till Sunday the 29th.

At the airport members of the Aruba Olympic Committee, the Technical Commission, as well as friends and family were on hand to bid our

athletes farewell and to wish them much success during the games. For many months our athletes trained hard in preparation for these games.

The Aruba Olympic Committee and all of Aruba wish our athletes much success -- athletes: Guillermo Kelkboom, Eugene Dirks, Jonathan Croes, Cherley v/d Linden, Oriana Thielman, Zaithyel Soekander, As-

chwin Dabian, Emunazira Kelly, Aigel Brete, Isaac Croes, Jordy Groters, Daniella van den Berg, Mikel Schreuders, Joseph Winterdal, Zymion Loopstok, Jada Mejia, Diangelo Rodriguez, Myrdiano Ruiz, Mack van den Erenbeemt and Chester Hill....

EXITO TO ALL!!!

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Baseball: Japan league chief quits over ball scandal



TOKYO (AFP) - The chief of Japanese professional baseball resigned Thursday ending months of calls for him to go after the former diplomat admitted his office secretly changed the design of balls to produce more home runs.

Nippon Professional Baseball (NPB) commissioner Ryozi Kato had been under pressure since the scandal erupted in June, but the 72-year-old steadfastly refused to step down until now.

"I am responsible for all the trouble caused to baseball fans and people concerned about the ball changes," he told a news conference with owners of the league's 12 teams in attendance.

Kato cited ball design as "one of the major reasons" for his decision to quit. His reign will finish when the regular season ends next month.

He took up the post in 2008 after serving as Japan's ambassador to Washington for nearly seven years.

The Japan Professional Baseball Players Association had called on Kato to quit for being "passive" and "avoiding responsibility".

After months of repeated denials and a huge surge in home runs this season, the league admitted on June 11 that it had changed specifications of the balls -- each which bear Kato's signature -- to give it greater bounce off the bat.

The league also admitted that it had demanded its manufacturer keep quiet about the switch.

The day after the revelation, Kato told a news conference he had been unaware of any change and refused to step down. At that point the number of home runs had already jumped 40 percent from a year before.

The scandal came to the fore again on Sunday after former US major leaguer Vladimir Balentien set a new season home-run record, surpassing the 55 homers set by Japan's home-run king Sadaharu Oh nearly half a century ago.

Balentien, a 29-year-old native of the Dutch Caribbean island of Curacao, had smacked 58 home runs as of Wednesday, well ahead of his nearest rival with 37.



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